continuation of Indian grant assistance for the Goitre control programme in Nepal. A Joint Press Statement was also issued during the visit.

(c) and (d) The Government of Nepal has assured that it would not allow its territory to be used for any activity against India. It has also been agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation to effectively address all issues concerning security, including cross border crime, through existing bilateral mechanisms.

Privatization of passport offices

798. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passport offices were deprived of the software which were provided to TATA;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the whole work related to Passport Issuance System is proposed to be done by the private contractor and the passport employees would be given the job of verifying the work done by private workers; and

(d) if so, the reason for Government going in for privatization of passport offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) No. All non-sovereign and non-sensitive functions involving issuance of tokens, initial scrutiny of application, capture of photo and finger prints, scanning of documents and acceptance of fee will be performed by the employees of the Service Provider while sovereign and sensitive functions such as actual verification of documents with originals and the granting, printing and dispatch of passports will be performed by Central Passport Organisation (CPO) employees.

Indo-Pak meeting

799. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Pak talks was held in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of various issues discussed in the said meeting;

(c) the reactions of Pakistan on the points raised by India;

(d) the details of the decision taken on the occasion; and

(e) the mutual benefits likely to accrue as a result of these talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes. The External Affairs Minister (EAM) met Pakistan Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mahmood Qureshi on September 27, 2009 in New York on the sidelines of UNGA. This